WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 8 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | DECEMBER 2004

Rachel's vision becomes reality

Sister City bond between Olympia and Rafah is strong

by Jennifer Zahn Spieler

Founded in 2003 after the death of Olympia resident and Evergreen graduate Rachel Corrie, the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project (ORSCP) has endeavored to foster a sister city relationship between our city and the city of Rafah, in the Gaza Strip, where Rachel was killed. This sister city relationship was envisioned by Rachel as a way to promote peace, understanding, and friendship through cultural exchanges.

Since the founding of the organization, several of our members have traveled to that part of the world in order to form friendships with Palestinian people and work on our sister city relationship. These friendships and the way our two communities interact, however, are heavily contingent on the decisions and actions of the Israeli military. Of the ORSCP members who have traveled there so far, only two have actually been able to enter Gaza. Challenging these restrictions of movement is a way that ORSCP members can resist the occupation, but the "loopholes" are closing fast. Less than a year ago, approximately 10-14 organizations could get into Gaza to work. Today, that number is about 50% lower. The number of those that can help ORSCP is down to two. Even inside Gaza, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Red Crescent often have their movement restricted. We will strive to help send others to Rafah at some point in the near future, so that our friendships and personal connections with the people there can be maintained.

Here in our community, the projects we work on include hosting educational presentations and discussions on the situation in Rafah, providing a fair trade outlet for the General Union of Palestinian Women to sell their crafts, and developing pen pal relationships between residents of our two cities. Over in Rafah, our support helps obtain much-needed medical equipment and supplies, contributes to construction and rebuilding of playgrounds for children, and assists organizations such as the Society for Disabled Persons, the Rachel Corrie Center for Women's Empowerment and the Rachel Corrie Children and Youth Cultural Center.

Craig and Cindy Corrie planting an olive tree with children in Rafah during a visit to the region following the death of their daughter Rachel.

Why are we able to connect with these people in Gaza? Why do we work so hard to foster friendships with the people of Rafah? Because it is was the wish of our friend and community member, Rachel, that this would become a reality. As we learn more about our sister city, it is impossible not to be shocked by the general situation there, which includes a permanent curfew, constant military incursions, and a citizenry living in perpetual fear. The people of Rafah always fear losing their homes to Israeli bulldozers, as well as losing their livelihoods, losing their access to health care, and even losing their lives. In Gaza, including Rafah, 950 Palestinians have been killed and 7100 injured since 2000. Over 2500 Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip have been destroyed in the past 4 years; of those, nearly two-thirds are in Rafah. The result is 16,000 people rendered homeless in Rafah during this time. Rafah's total population is about 130,000.

When a family's home is destroyed, they are often not notified in advance or even given a reason for the demolition. With no time to pack, all their belongings are destroyed along with the home. Relief agencies provide homeless families with tents, blankets, and camping stoves, but they are otherwise left with nothing. Rachel lost her life trying to prevent the demolition of the home of a pharmacist and his family.

In addition to the home demolitions, citizens of Rafah also have to cope with land razing, harassment, and almost daily wounding and killing of innocent civilians. At the website www.rafah.vze.com, photos depict the destruction of lives and property. Anguished families are shown sifting through the remains of their homes; injured children are showing lying on stretchers and in hospital beds. Fifteen-year-old Jamil, a handsome boy who somehow still manages to smile for the camera, holds up his arm, which is missing its hand. He was hit by an Israeli tank shell as he walked home from school. This type of occurrence is all too

("Rafah" continued on page 7)

2nd Annual Winter Celebration Fundraiser
December 11
See page 7 for details

Leaving so soon?

SS Cape Intrepid

by Drew Hendricks

Around 7:20pm on November 18th, the Cape Intrepid left the Port of Olympia, abandoning eight military trucks and 20 or more freight containers intended for the war in Iraq. Some of the containers have markings that clearly identify them as military cargo.

The ship had pulled its ramp up just as I was arriving at the Port Plaza after 6pm, presumably to prevent the access of an estimated 150 persons who had torn a 9-foot hole in the Port's gate near the ship. Two people were arrested for crossing onto the Port through the hole; Nick Bland and Cameron Thaut were reported arrested by the Olympian. Thurston County Sheriff's deputies grabbed Cameron while he was seated on the ground just outside the gate itself, according to bystanders.

In a telephone interview Saturday, November 20, 2004, Nick stated that the reason he deliberately courted arrest was that "...in order to stop this thing from happening, one has to transgress the boundaries that have been established by the people who are the perpetrators of this injustice." "One has to be willing to put themselves at risk, put their comforts at risk (to be effective) in stopping this injustice. Inaction is equivalent to being complicit." He stated that he had been charged under Olympia's municipal code, and had only been held for approximately two hours at Olympia's municipal jail.

By 7pm, 25 police officers in riot armor and gas masks stood in a line about ten feet back from the torn fence, in a tense standoff which had begun at 5:20pm and lasted more than two hours. Eventually, more than 40 police cars and vans were counted on the Port side of the fence, and three Olympia Police vehicles sat parked near the entrance to the Port Plaza. On scene commander Tor Bjornstad, of the Olympia Police Department, stood among protesters, observing the scene and speaking with reporters from the Olympian and KIRO 7 News from Seattle. Tor wore civilian clothes and a red hat. An unmarked Washington State Patrol vehicle, license plate 022-NUW, (ironically enough, it was a silver Dodge Intrepid) patrolled the Farmer's Market parking lot.

At around 8pm, the crowd dwindled to a handful on each side and the Longshoremen placed a hasty barrier in front of the torn fence, using a shipping container to block the gap.

The materiel was still on the quay in the morning of Friday the 19th, and the Coast Guard personnel who were tasked with protecting the ship were nowhere to be seen, having left in the night.

The normal berth for the Cape Intrepid is in Tacoma, at the Sperry Ocean terminal along Schuster Parkway, but there were no ships there as of 12 noon Friday.

It is difficult for some to believe that a simple direct action against the integrity of a fence could drive off a 695 foot transport ship, but that is apparently what has happened. No one has reported yet why the materiel was left behind; no containers were loaded aboard the ship during its 26 hour stay in the Port of Olympia.

(See page 10 for commentary on the militarization of the Port of Olympia)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, WA. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to ***wip@zhonka.net*** or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool:

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

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We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

About the cover: Patty Imani - allowing "the bloody images of war to be seen - and the grief experienced from such crimes against humanity to be shared." **(See page 7)** ***Photo by Robert Torre***

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

December 24

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Announcements, etc.

"Jolom Mayaetik" Weavers Cooperative

Northwest US Tour Fall 2004
Dec 7-19, 2004
Presentation:
December 10th, Annual Holiday Native Arts Fair, 11 AM to 6 PM.
The Evergreen State College Longhouse
Dec. 13th, Traditions Fair Trade , 7 PM
Reconstructing the Strands:
Chiapas Indigenous Women Weavers Coop

Back by Popular Demand!

The cooperative was formed in 1996 by several hundred indigenous women who demanded a democratic and accountable co-op structure. The women use the co-op as an organizing base to protest and resist social and economic injustice. Today, the women run their coop through consensus and emphasize self-representation in their search for fair markets for co-op products.

Presentations include a slideshow about the role of weaving in the lives of indigenous women, the history of the co-op, and the struggle for women's autonomy in Chiapas. Cooperative-made textiles will be available for view at all presentations: from bracelets to placemats, from huipils (traditional blouses) to elaborate table-runners.

For more info contact:
Jason Wallach: (503) 236-7916 (Portland) or Lucilene Lira: 360.867-6055 (Olympia)

Community Cooperatives Forum

3-5pm Sunday, December 12.
Downtown Olympia Public Library
313 8th Avenue, SE

The purpose of this forum is for participants to discover each other's ideas, and give them an opportunity to begin collaboration on realizing them. We are confronted with a government intent on cutting and privatizing essential public services. Clearly we must find ways to take care of our own needs. Cooperative organization provides a means of self-reliance, and an answer to the looming post-election question of "now what?"

We will begin with a description of the Mondragon cooperative system, located in the Basque region of Spain. There, people have created a system of 160 cooperatives, which collectively provide employment for 23,000 people while grossing over US$5 billion per year. Its parent corporation is the seventh-largest in Spain, with $20 billion in assets; the system includes one of Spain's largest banks, a research institute, an entrepreneurial division, insurance and social security institutions, schools, a college, a health maintenance system and a health insurance cooperative.

We will also examine other examples of cooperative complexes, and describe the cooperatives already extant in Olympia and Washington. But the point of this forum will be cooperatives that don't exist yet. Some examples that have already been mentioned are a health insurance co-op, a community art space, herb shop and gas station.

Most of the forum will be dedicated to a go-round in which everyone can describe a project on which they would like to work. Sign-up sheets will be posted so that working groups may form for further discussion of the ideas.

For more information, or if you want to help organize the event, please call Andrew McLeod at 570-0214 or email AMCL@ONEBOX.COM.

"Moral Values" & Political Control Through Language

An OMJP Forum Friday, December 10, 2004, 7-9 PM at the Olympia Community Center, Rms 101/102
222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia, WA

On November 02, twenty-two percent of voters cited "moral values" as their primary reason for choosing one presidential candidate over another, and 80% of those voted for George W. Bush. And eleven states approved constitutional amendments banning gay marriage.

What does this mean? How is it possible that 61 million Americans essentially voted to continue destructive polices that are not even in their own interests? How did language and the use of conceptual frames influence public opinion and voting, and what are the strategic implications for the USleft?

Speakers Carrie Lybecker, Phan Nguyen, and Matt Wolpe will discuss these questions, and the analyses of George Lakoff, Thomas Frank, Herbert Brun and others, followed by community discussion.

For further information, contact Carrie Lybecker, carriejl@comcast.net, 360-867-9501, or check the OMJP Web site, www.omjp.org.

WROC Night Out

Welfare Rights Organization Coalition
Monday December 6th
Arts and Crafts Fair and Carnival
A radical students art collective
Potluck 5:30 pm
Create gifts to take home
Make donation for Artswroc
Set your creative spirtit free!
First United Methodist Church
1223 Legion Way SE

ARTWROC

Saturday, December 11th
Last Word Books
211 – 4th Ave
Noon to 10 pm
Arts and Crafts Sale
Proceeds benefit artists and WROC
Questions? 352-9716
wrocoly@wroc.org

Final push for Instant Runoff Voting

In the wake of the 2004 elections, let's forge ahead with real electoral reform.

I-318, the initiative to the Legislature seeking Instant Runoff Voting, is still gathering signatures and soliciting volunteers for signature gathering. We can still do this, but we still need your help. Go to www.IRVWA.org to sign up. Signatures may be gathered until the end of December 2004.

To learn more about IRV, or to sign up to help gather signatures, visit the I-318 campaign's web site www.irvwa.org . Or call Toll free 1-866-IRVWAORG (1-866-478-9267).

Items needed for people who are without shelter

There's a terrible lack of shelter here in Thurston County; the Salvation Army has been filled and has no beds left and it's not even November yet. The Bread and Roses shelters are filled to capacity. St. Mike's shelter will not open for another month and it will only provide 12 beds.

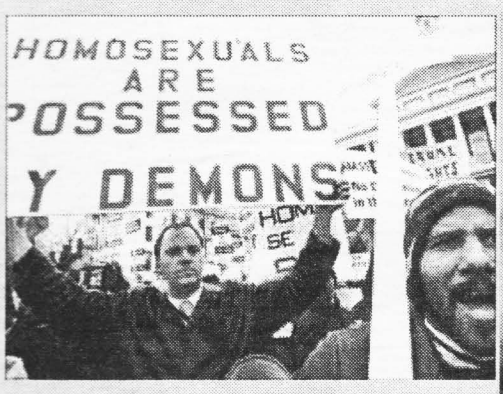
Everyday men and women ask me for tents and tarps witch I can not provide; so I find my Organization (EGYHOP)

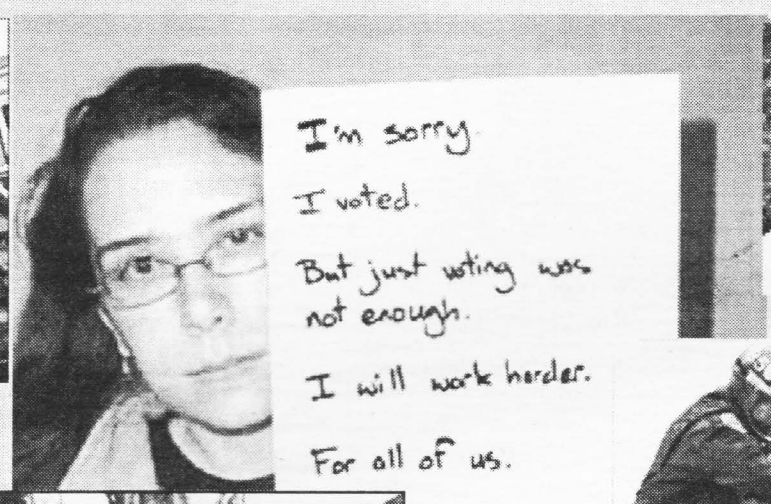
(Announcements cont. on page 11)

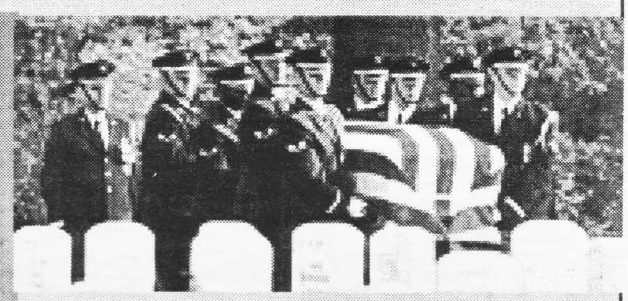
December 2004

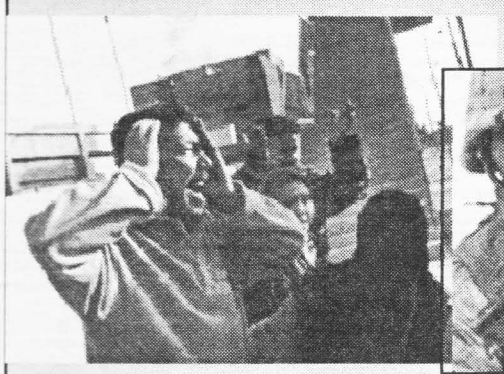
Voting is not enough

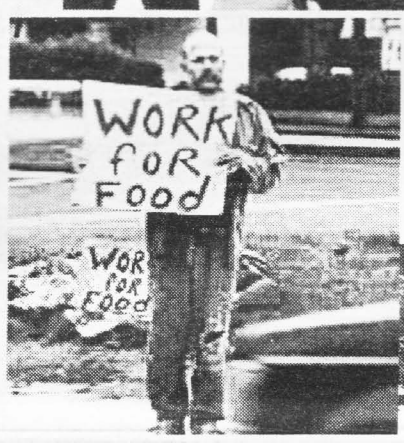
Sources: sorryeverybody.com; Pictures That bush Does Not Want You To See











Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Through the Bush administration, the Power Elite...has firmly enlisted Middle America — particularly the conservative Evangelical community— into building the total state through unlimited government at home and unlimited warfare abroad. **William Norman Grigg, *The Manufactured Divide***			**1** 2003: OR Muslim women sentenced to 3 years for wiring money to husband and others trying to enter Afghanistan to aid Taliban	**2** 1859: John Brown is hanged 2, 2002: Study released reveals death by driving while phoning is rising significantly	**3** 2003: Schwarzenegger repeals measure that would allow 2 million undocumented immigrant drivers to apply for licenses	**4** 2003: Mother says Ft Lewis soldier who says she was raped in Kuwait, then being isolated afterwards, tried to commit suicide
5 2003: Albertsons drops 51% in 3rd-quarter profits, CA grocery workers strike siphoned $132 million last 3 weeks of Oct	**6** 2003: NRA plans to buy tv/radio station and be treated as news organization exempt from spending limits in campaign finance law	**7** 2003: UN peacekeepers receive surrendered weapons from Liberian government and rebel forces ending 14 years of bloodshed	**8** 8, 2003: 3 soldiers from Fort Lewis are killed and one injured in Iraq 8, 2003: US launches largest Afghan offensive since war	**9** 1995: 184 members US Representatives—171 Republicans/13 Democrats—sign letter opposing deployment of troops to Bosnia	**10** 2003: Iraqi Health Ministry officials halts civilian casualty count 2003: BC Ferries workers defy back-to-work order, and strike	**11** 2003: 10 states announce they are exploring ways to buy affordable drugs from Canada & make them available to Americans
12 2002: Bush makes regulatory changes to allow religious social-service organizations to get more government grants/contracts	**13** 2001: Bush's education plan passes House 2003: Essie Mae Washington-Williams says late Sen Strom Thurmond is her father	**14** 2002: Jeb Bush vows to fight proposed ban to save manatees; says ban too costly 2003: Saddam Hussein is captured	**15** 1997: Pentagon to vaccinate military personnel against anthrax bacteria, 1st time troops to be inoculated against a germ warfare agent	**16** 2003: Ashcroft is sanctioned by federal judge for twice violating gag order in Detroit trial of people accused of aiding terrorists	**17** 2003: Cheney criticizes news coverage of Bush administration, "People don't check the facts" 2003: US farmers urge end of Cuban embargo	**18** 2003: Captain Yee returns home today 2003: Thurston County Commissioners rejects cell tower on Friendly Grove Rd
19 2003: New 4th Avenue bridge opens 2003: Abbott Laboratories raises US price of important AIDS drug fourfold	**20** 2003: Air Force drops 3 major counts against Guantanamo translator 2003: CA grocers/strikers talks collapse after 1 day, strike continues	**21** 2003: 1000s of French Muslims protest in Paris a proposed law to ban veils in classrooms 2003: 12 Israeli reservists refuse to serve a	**22** 2003: Federal judge orders military to stop anthrax vaccinations saying that soldiers shouldn't be used as "guinea pigs"	**23** 2003: 1st case of mad cow in US near Yakima 2003: More than 600 Jordanian lawyers volunteer to defend Saddam Hussein	**24** 2003: Fed appeals court blocks changes to the Clean Air Act 2003: Jeb Bush dedicates 1st faith-based prison in Lawtey FL	**25** 1865: Chicago opens the Union stockyards 1998: Japan economy continues downward spiral in November w/ no rebound in sight
26 2003: Earthquake rocks Iran 2003: Cuba charges US w/ having "concentration camp" at Guantanamo Bay	**27** 2003: US claims Mad Cow diseased cow was from Canada 27, 2003: Israeli troops kill teenage boy during clash w/ stone throwers	**28** 2003: Michael Jackson accuses cops of manhandling him when he was arrested last month on charges of child molestation	**29** 2003: 25,000 bodies have been retrieved so far after Iran's earthquake, predictions of death count now at more than 40,000.	**30** 2003: FBI warns police to be on alert for people carrying almanacs 2003: 4,800 gallons of oil spill into Puget Sound	**31** 2003: Newly released British documents show US planned to seize foreign oil fields in Middle-East during 1973 Arab oil embargo	**Americans today have no visual relationship with the lives that were lost in Iraq this year...** **Dan Carlin**

Justice delayed

Leschi to be exonerated after 150 years

by David Lavender

Chief Leschi

On December 10, at 1 p.m. there will be a court convening at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma to re-examine a case last heard 150 years ago. That case resulted in the execution of a Nisqually tribal member and chief named Leschi. The state accused him of the murder of A.B. Moses, who was a Washington Territorial militia member killed during the war on the natives of the Puget Sound in the 1850's. Descendants of Leschi and the Nisqually Tribe have called for the trial to clear the name of an innocent man who was unfairly tried and convicted.

Leschi had an immense amount of respect from natives and non-natives alike. There are countless writings vouching for his integrity, sincerity, and leadership; these attributes were maintained even in times of war. Take this statement from Lieutenant A.V. Kantz given after being held captive by Leschi and others during the state's war: "He [Leschi] protested against killing women and children, and against pillaging and plundering the settlements. On several occasions during the war he had individual white men in his power, and his influence saved them from being killed."

So how did a man like this become a murderer in the eyes of the state? To understand the answer we must bring in another man named Isaac Stevens, the first governor of this state.

Stevens was not an elected leader, rather an appointee of the U.S. president. He had a specific job: to deal with the indigenous people so the U.S. could get on with the business of appropriating Washington state's vast resources. So Stevens was going around the state trying to get treaties with all the tribes.

One such treaty was the Medicine Creek Treaty, which included the Nisqually who had Leschi as their chief negotiator. The treaty would have moved the Nisqually people, whose name means the people of the prairie and river, to a spot upstream that was a wooded area with rocky soil not even bordering the river. Leschi would not sign the treaty, as he stated clearly for the rest of his life over and over again. Other accounts from natives present affirm Leschi's words. It makes sense that Leschi would not sign an offer so disrespectful to the people who had been here for thousands of years. Yet, somehow an **"X"** appeared near Leschi's name with the state claiming Leschi signed the agreement.

So after the fraudulent treaty signing, the state claimed the Nisqually were illegally occupying state land and went to arrest Leschi. Leschi caught wind of his impending arrest and left before the state got to where his people were living. With Leschi went his brother Quiemuth and some men from the tribe; the chase that ensued started the only war recorded in the Puget Sound. All the remaining Nisqually members were forced from their home and taken to Fox Island where they were kept for years with other tribes in the area. Here they could not go to traditional places to gather food or for any other reason and were dependants of the state for food, clothes and other necessities.

It is an important fact that the state declared war on the resisting natives. The law clearly states you cannot be charged for murder in the course of fighting those who are attacking you, such as happened with militiaman A.B. Moses. There is also ample evidence showing that Leschi was not even present when Moses was killed, but the evidence was not allowed in court. Stevens' bias against Leschi was obvious; I encourage everyone to go to the state library and read accounts of meetings between Stevens and the Indigenous people of the area. You will see for yourselves the extremely patronizing and racist way Stevens treated the first peoples of this land, which has unfortunately been the norm in relations with natives from the U.S. in general.

Twice the state tried to hang Leschi at Fort Steilacoom, and both times the hanging was thwarted ... the soldiers there knew and liked Leschi, and knew the murder charges were illegal

After the war was declared over, Leschi was arrested on Nisqually land - "ownership" of which he had proposed for his people before the war. Stevens had rejected this proposal. But the years of resistance and determination by Leschi and the Nisqually got them the land and they went back to it after the years on Fox Island.

When Leschi's brother Quiemuth went to visit his imprisoned brother he was murdered in the governor's office. The murderer was never found (nor adequately searched for).

Leschi's first trial resulted in a hung jury, so Stevens moved the trial to a place where anti-Indian sentiment was high. This jury of all white men convicted Leschi of murder and sentenced him to death. Twice the state tried to hang Leschi at Fort Steilacoom, and both times the hanging was thwarted by the soldiers. The soldiers there knew and liked Leschi, and knew the murder charges were illegal since the alleged murder happened during a time of war.

Finally on the third attempt, by taking Leschi away from the fort, the state of Washington murdered Chief Leschi of the Nisqually people and thus establishing the "authority" that they claim today over the resources (including people) of this state.

So this trial on December 10th is an important re-examination of the trials of Leschi. For over a century now, the Nisqually people have been hearing that their ancestor who fought for their land and paid for it with his life, a man looked up to and revered by many in his day, is a murderer. With an official exoneration of Leschi, the truth will be told of the man so loved and respected, and the lies will stop.

Again, the trial takes place at 1 p.m. on December 10 at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. If you have an interest in seeing the trial live call (253) 798-5877 and make a reservation. After the trial there will be a reception in Olympia kicking off a new exhibit entitled The Northwest Treaty Trail, 1854-1856.

This is your opportunity to learn more about the ten Northwest Treaties Isaac Stevens negotiated and hopefully spur us all to learn about the history of this still young state we call Washington and the people who have a much longer history in this area.

You can also call Melissa Parr of the Washington State Historical Society at (360) 753-2580 for more information on the exhibit or on general info on Leschi and related topics.

War Crimes and the Bush Administration

by Michael Tempke

Everyday I think, "Someday this planet shall know peace." Peace is unavoidable. It could be within our lifetime. Peace can only come with justice. They are old friends. Where you find justice, you will find peace.

The Bush Administration is a living example of the flip side of that statement. Its hawkish, warring mentality is matched by a dreadful contempt for the rule of law. Their disregard for the Geneva Conventions has been absolutely dishonorable. From the "Shock and Awe" bombing campaign to the recent murder of the unarmed, injured man in the mosque in Fallujah, this invasion and occupation has been marked by breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

Article 48 of Protocol I – a 1977 addition to the 1949 Conventions – states that "Parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly shall direct their operations only against military objectives." The U.S. military has not been observing this. In the recent assault on Fallujah, the Nazzal Emergency Hospital was leveled by U.S. bombs (Nov 6), a clinic was bombed (Nov 9), electric power was cut by U.S. troops, and mosques were targeted and attacked.

Even if Iraqi combatants were in mosques and other parts of the city, the Geneva Conventions protect them. Article 50 of Protocol I states "the presence within the civilian population of individuals who do not come within the definition of civilians does not deprive the population of its civilian character." Therefore, when a U.S. tank shelled the Palestine Hotel on 8 April 2003, it was a breach of the Geneva Conventions.

The prison torture scandal that erupted in May 2004 was a violation of Article 13 of the Third Geneva Convention. "Prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated."

Donald Rumsfeld, as Secretary of Defense, and George W. Bush, as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, have the responsibility of condemning these actions and all other breaches of the Geneva Conventions. Because they have refused to strongly denounce these actions, they are allowing the standard operating procedure of the U.S. military to become disrespectful of the rule of law. According to the War Crimes Act of 1996, any grave breach of the Geneva Conventions is a war crime.

Call your Congressperson and tell him or her what to do about it! We must form the basis of justice upon which lasting peace can be built upon.

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"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

Giving Thanks in Times of War

by Marco-Rosaire Rossi

The first official "Day of Thanksgiving" was proclaimed in 1637 by the Puritan Governor of Massachusetts John Winthrop. Winthrop was celebrating the massacre of 700 Pequots along the Mystic River near the Long Island Sound. The gruesome nature of this massacre was not only evident in the violence of the acts, but also the targets. The English settlers, led by Captain John Mason set out to deliberately attack those Pequots who were not directly involved in the fighting between natives and settlers. Ethnohistorian Francis Jennings explains: "Mason proposed to avoid attacking Pequot warriors, which would have overtaxed his unseasoned, unreliable troops. Battle, as such, was not his purpose. Battle is only one of the ways to destroy an enemy's will to fight. Massacre can accomplish the same end with less risk, and Mason had determined that massacre would be his objective."1

Thus began a practice of "total war" among the settlers toward the indigenous tribes in America. Total war, often also refereed to the highest form of warfare, occurs when a military force refuses to attack another military force and instead focuses on the civilian population. The military knowingly and strategically attacks those members of society that have the least access to weapons and military training - children, women, and the elderly. The goal is to break the spirit and infrastructure of a nation rather than dominate it militarily. A nation may be able to function with a civil society even if its military is wiped out, but if its civil society is annihilated, it will easily submit to the demands of a mightier or more brutal force.

This tradition of total war has been a deep and painful part of American history, from the founding of the nation to the United State's present military ventures in the Middle East. It remains an important aspect of imperial power, a necessity during the violent process of colonization. It is no wonder that the recent attacks in the Iraqi city of Fallujah are yet another an example of this total war.

Accounts from reporters and civilians paint a grim picture of the situation in Fallujah. Stories are emerging of American soldiers shooting unarmed civilians in the head while they lay wounded on the ground. Houses have been bombed with women and children inside. Homes have been raided, with American soldiers firing aimlessly around.2

Essentially, what is happening in Fallujah is the degradation of the military into chaotic and nihilistic actions, killing without pause or consideration. One Iraqi has described soldiers randomly shooting "at the animals moving in the streets, (and) the trees waving their leaves in the wind."3

In one tragic event, AP photographer Bilal Hussein recounted his story of attempting to leave the city's mayhem by swimming out through a river. However, Hussein changed his mind once he witness a family of five, who had the same idea, shot dead on the riverbank by a U.S. helicopter in front of him.4 In another horror story, a father of a 9-year-old boy buried his son in his own garden after the boy had been hit in the stomach with shrapnel and bleed to death. The child might have been saved, but family was unable to leave their home and receive medical attention because the atmosphere outside their home was so violent and chaotic.5

A nation may be able to function with a civil society even if its military is wiped out, but if its civil society is annihilated, it will easily submit to the demands of a mightier or more brutal force.

Elsewhere, a women and her three children were killed after their house had been bombed with American planes.6 One young refugee from the city, who only gave his name as Ahmed to reporters, recounted that the fear of death was so great that, "Every night we said goodbye to one another because we expected to die...You could see areas where all the houses were flattened, there was just nothing left."7

American and Iraqi officials are completely unwilling to consider these accounts much less take responsibility for the consequences that the assault has had on the population. The Pentagon's only comment is that it has never taken the time to research civilian causalities. Currently, the U.S. military is reporting that 1,200 "insurgents" were killed in the attack.8 However, there has been no independent verification of this count or if all those killed were "insurgents." Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has claimed that not one civilian was killed in the assault on Fullajah,9 and has insisted that the press in Iraq report that story. Iraqi Journalists have been warned that if they do not endorse the position that the operation has been an overwhelming success, and do not "promote unrealistic positions or project nationalist tags on terrorist gangs of criminals and killers" then they won't face legal actions.10

Celebrate the struggles for peace and democracy. To do so is to begin a miracle.

In a twisted form of logic, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld went so far as to blame the civilians of Fullajah for any horrors perpetrated against them during the conflict. Before fighting, Rumsfled claimed that, "Innocent civilians in that city have all the guidance they need as to how they can avoid getting into trouble. There aren't going to be large numbers of civilians killed and certainly not by US forces."11

Despite the censorship and denials, accounts of civilian deaths are being reported. The Red Cross has estimated that at least 800 civilian causalities have occurred, and has conceded that this figure is probably a gross underestimation of the actual number.12 It is also highly possible that more deaths will occur after the fighting has stopped. The people of Fullajah have been without water or electricity for several days. Large sections of the population are struggling with serious illnesses and medical attention is completely nonexistent in some areas. In addition, both the Red Cross and the Iraqi Red Crescent are being denied access into the city because the U.S. military claims that their services are not needed; the United States military will provide the people of Fullajah with their own food and medicine.

It is tragic, but somewhat fitting that the massacre in Fullajah has happened at the time it did. While the war in Iraq rages on, the majority of Americans are preparing for Thanksgiving Day: the holiday in which Americans are encouraged to be thankful for the things that are provided to them, the country they live in, and the freedoms that they have. However, with the reality that the United States has a historical and current practice of total war, there is a question that faces each American: what is there to be thankful for? Iraqis are without democracy, food, electricity, or medicine; the Indigenous populations of America are without justice, employment, health-care, equal rights, and white America continues to be without a sense of ethics or the conviction to do good in the face of great horror. Indeed, what is there to be thankful for, where is the hope?

To ask Iraqis to accept peace now so that elections may occur in January is the same as asking the Indigenous populations in America to sit down with white people and celebrate a holiday that is rooted in their genocide. In each case, it is asking a group of people to accept a painful peace, a peace without justice, a peace where the various forms of violence are solidified in layers of every day domination, in essence no peace at all. If we are ever to see an end to total war, or any war for that matter, then it is necessary that humanity come to the recognition that both peace and justice are two halves of the same body of freedom; one is incomplete without the other.

The search to give thanks and find hope in times of war, especially when total war is the norm, is a search for peace *and* justice. It is a search for those moments in history and in our present where social forces struggled to heal the wounds created by authoritarianism and domination through equality, restoration, and peacemaking. If Americans are to give thanks and mean it, then they cannot give in to such abstract notions as country, God, president, or State. Instead, it is more meaningful and true to give such celebration to native leaders such as Powhatan, who questioned John Smith on the ethics of white settlers: "Why will you take by force what you may have quietly by love?"13 Instead, give thanks and celebrate people such as William Penn, the white Quaker who worked to peacefully settle disputes between natives and settlers, and encouraged equal treatment and respect for the indigenous populations. Celebrate those forces that are struggling to end the occupation and prevent a civil war between Arabs and Kurds. Give thanks to those struggles that value civil liberties and democracy - to the brave reporters in the United States and Iraq who are willing to report the suffering of the Iraqi people and criticize the censorship that exists in both countries. Celebrate the struggles for peace and democracy. To do so is to begin a miracle. The possibility for a better tomorrow rests on our current ability to extract joy from the present, and the only place that joy can exist in a world filled with as much suffering as ours is in the human ability to live in the face tragedy.

The choice may be quite simple, but not easy. On one hand, as a society we can give thanks, in defiance of the status-quo, for peace and justice. On the other hand, we could allow our tragedies to consume us and refuse to see the beauty that does exist. The latter choice may be more convenient, but the first choice may be our only hope toward genuine freedom.

(Endnotes)

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Excerpts from two post-election articles:

Now is our time to stand up

We're all Israelis now

by Mark LeVine

Three years ago, as the pungent odor of what was left of the World Trade Center slowly pervaded my neighborhood, I wrote a piece called "We're all Israelis Now." I didn't invent the idea; in the hours since the attacks I had heard several commentators say essentially the same thing, although our meanings were in fact diametrically opposed. For them, the September 11 attacks had constituted a tragic wake up call to America about the mortal threat posed by Muslim terrorism, which Israel had been living through for decades and whose methods the US would now have to copy if it wanted to "win the war on terror."

For me, however, the attacks suggested a more troubling scenario: That like Israelis, Americans would never face the causes of the extreme violence perpetrated against us by those whose oppression we have supported and even enforced, and engage in the honest introspection of what our role has been in generating the kind of hatred that turns commuter jets into cruise missiles. Instead, my gut told me that we'd acquiesce to President Bush's use of the war to realize the long-held imperial, even apocalyptic visions of the neoliberal Right, ones that find great sympathy with its Israeli counterpart …

So here we are, three years after the tragic day of 9/11. The smell of charred metal, fuel and flesh no longer pervades the five boroughs of New York; instead it wafts across the major cities of Iraq (where most Americans don't have to smell it, but I can attest from personal experience that the odor in Baghdad is as pungent as in Queens). The Bush Administration is free to proceed with a violently imperialist foreign policy with little fear of repercussion or political cost at home — who cares about abroad? — the Left is stupefied at its own political and moral incompetence, and the people at large are increasingly split between a fundamentalist religious-nationalist camp, and a yuppie-liberal camp that has no real legs to stand on and has little hope of engaging the millions of poor and working class who have moved to the right because of "social issues." Indeed, it is clear that they don't care if the rich are getting richer and the environment is going to Hell, as long as they're on the road to Heaven — or at least the Second Coming.

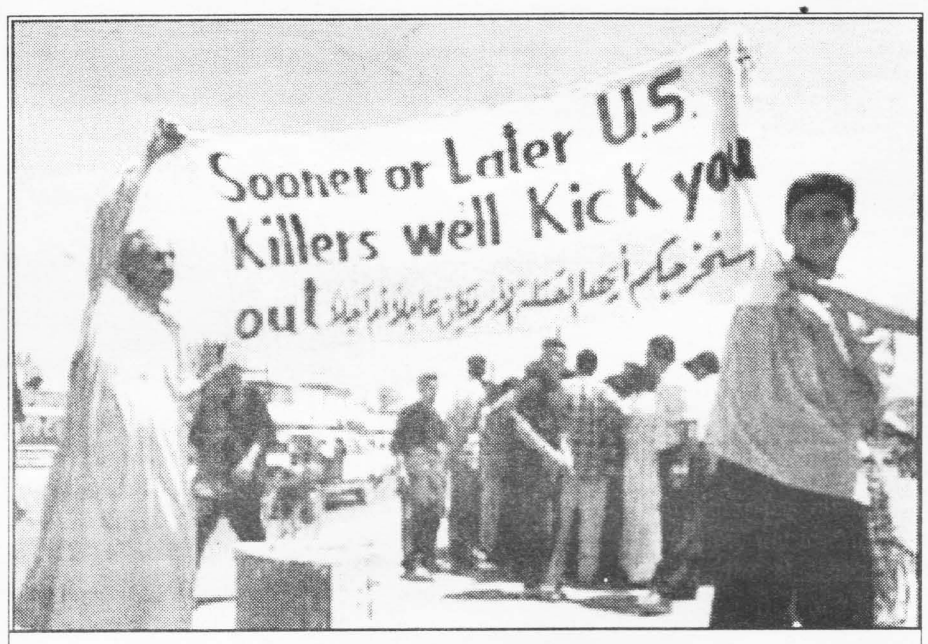
If progressives don't figure out how to reach working class conservative Christians, before too long we will all be living through Bush's dreams of apocalypse.

Block them and wrench power from their hands

Living up to our words

by Anthony Alessandrini

The deepest shame and terror lies in the fact of being the citizen of a country inhabited by 60 million people willing to vote to re-elect George W. Bush even after the horrors unleashed upon the world by his government. We should not be concerned, right at this moment, with the question of how to persuade or affect this group. Our task, for the moment, is to figure out how to most effectively block them and wrench power from their hands. In doing so, we need to find a way to connect with the billions of people across the globe who stand with us in this struggle. The paradox needs to be grasped: popular movements in the U.S. represent the force with the single best chance to actually stop the U.S. government, but these movements can only do so by making themselves more international, by drawing on the accumulated strength of anti-war and anti-occupation movements across the world, and by supporting in every way possible the struggle of Iraqis to resist the occupation and establish true self-determination.



Wouldn't *you* resist occupation?

Let's fight, let's reject, let's resist

by Chris Floyd

Well, that's it. The great American electoral agon is over at last. Now George W. Bush—the duly elected, finally legitimate president of the United States—can get back to doing what he does best: killing people for corporate profit and personal aggrandizement.

Yes, it's a hard blow for the world. Yes, it's a deep shame for American democracy, poisoned by lies, fear, greed and hysteria. Yes, it means that tens of thousands of innocent people will now be killed—by more war, more neglect, more ignorance, more repression, more brutality, more hatred, more fanaticism. Yes, it means that the planet will be gashed with more wounds, smeared with more filth, left to wither and die. Yes, it's a giant step backward for the human spirit, back to the muck of arbitrary rule by vicious elites and their ham-fisted goons, their well-wadded courtiers, their yapping sycophants. Yes, it means that somewhere out there, in the blood-dimmed haze of a dark age falling, Lucifer and bin Laden are lighting cigars and raising a glass to toast the victory of their good friend George.

These are the facts, and they can't be altered. But how to respond to this catastrophe? Shall we weep, moan, rend our garments, cover ourselves with sackcloth and ashes? Shall we sit upon the ground and tell sad stories of the death of republics? Shall we cower in the shadows and sing glamorous dirges for the Lost Cause, for vanished glories and broken dreams?

Or shall we come out fighting, unbowed, heads high, laughing fools to scorn, rejecting at every turn the moral authority of murderers and thieves to rule our lives, determine our reality, act in our name? Let's dispense with lamentation—give not a single moment to that emotional indulgence—and get right back to work, more determined than ever to bear down harder, dig deeper and excavate the radioactive nuggets of truth still glowing beneath the slag-heap of ruin that Bush and his terrorist partners have made of the world.

Let's fight, let's reject, let's resist—without violence, the weapon of the stupid, the hormonal secretion of evolutionary backsliders in thrall to the chemical soup in their heads, dull primitives dressing up their ape-lust for power with scraps of religion, philosophy and cant. Let's fight these pathetic, malfunctioning wretches who lay their hands on our world and rape it like beasts in mindless rut. Fight them with the truths we find, exposing their crimes and deadly hypocrisies to the people they've suckered, perverted and betrayed.

Let's fight these pathetic, malfunctioning wretches who lay their hands on our world and rape it like beasts in mindless rut. Fight them with the truths we find, exposing their crimes and deadly hypocrisies to the people they've suckered, perverted and betrayed.

This is not an insurmountable task, no matter how impervious the Bush Machine—that monstrous conglomeration of judicial bagmen, Congressional rubber-stamps, hard-right media moguls, dopehead radio ranters, sex-crazed theocrats, neo-conservatives, neo-Confederates, war profiteers, think-tank bleaters, Wall Street sharks, oilmen, Moonies, gun nuts and woman-haters—might appear at the moment. Let's look at the facts. Despite four years of the most relentless barrage of propaganda, deceit, misinformation and fearmongering ever hurled against a free society, more than 54 million people voted to reject Bush and all his works: his Hitlerite policy of aggressive war; his gulag system of torture and lawless detention; his savage assault on civil rights, the environment, working people and the poor; his systematic destruction of social programs; his transfer of sovereignty from individuals and communities to the iron grip of his corporate donors; his trashing of hard-won international agreements on nuclear weapons, conventional arms, war crimes, global warming, the rights of women and the protection of children; his unleashing of rabid religious zealots into the bowels of government to set policies on science, health, education, welfare, while sucking up billions in public money to fund their sectarian causes.

Such mass dissent—even in "wartime," in the face of the Machine—is surely cause for hope. Moreover, recent academic studies show that a large majority of Bush supporters actually disagree with him on everything from the Kyoto treaty to missile defense to international law to workers' rights—but somehow believe that he shares their views. Most Bush-backers also still believe that Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda colluded in the September 11 attacks and that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction—yet this same majority says that the conquest of Iraq would be illegitimate if there were no WMD and no 9/11 connection. Thus more than half of the Bush voters on Tuesday oppose his actual policies, including the criminal war in Iraq—they just don't know it yet, because they're mired in carefully-cultivated delusion.

Of course, many Bush voters are willfully deluded, glad to be suckered and betrayed. They love the ludicrous puppet-show of his supposed greatness, his all-seeing wisdom, his mandate from God. They get teary-eyed at the thought of his honesty and goodness—while he kills 100,000 innocent people in Iraq, as a new medical study shows, with a brutally stupid military aggression based on lies and fantasies, fomenting more terrorism with each new barbarity and gorging his cronies on blood money. This hard core will never respond to the truth.

But if we can enlighten even the smallest percentage of Bush's razor-thin majority, then support for his murderous folly and waste will quickly erode. One by one, the puppet-strings will snap, and America's headlong plunge into tyranny, bigotry and endless imperial war can perhaps—perhaps—be halted, even reversed.

It's worth the fight. Let's take it on. In the words of the old spiritual, let us be in no ways tired. The road back to sanity and justice starts now.

Chris Floyd's new book, *Empire Burlesque: The Secret History of the Bush Regime*, is now available at www.globaleyefloyd.com.

In Our Eyes

by Patricia Imani

Childhood: Home is a military base in Augusta, Georgia, the beginning years of Vietnam, 1965 through 1968. Images that bind: Red clay, shack housing, the TV screen, bloody images of war-dead. At night some of the children gather outside to sing and play. Country Joe McDonald's "I'm Fixin' to Die Rag" has become the song of choice. I'm aged now, so for some, the chorus went like this: *"1, 2, 3, what are we fighting for? Don't ask me I don't give a damn, next stop is Vietnam! And it's 5, 6, 7 open up the pearly gates, there ain't no time to wonder why, whoopie, we're all ganna die!"* We children sing the word "damn" and know we're getting away with something good. Our parents, they don't correct us. Weary. We see it in their eyes like we see it on the TV screen. The bloody images of the war-dead fuse, the blood and flesh of the children and women of Vietnam, the blood and flesh of the 'American Son", it all fuses. Lines give to softness, carried from child's eyes to parent's eyes, so many deaths the body tires of seeing the unfolding of such 'incarnations'. We ask ourselves the essential question, "What do we want for our world?" In there somewhere we commit ourselves to humanity, we are then called "resisters".

Today, home is Olympia, the 'beginning' years of Iraq. I receive the report so many have seen through the internet that 100,000 Iraqi women, children and men have been killed. I heard today on *Democracy Now!* that 800 civilians have been killed in Fallujah alone in the last ten days. Yet, images of the war dead are largely kept hidden from the public eye, the public conscience, by a corporate owned, pentagon-censored media. Flag covered coffins holding the bodies of U.S. war dead are moved in the night. In Olympia, white crosses are forbidden to be placed in the ground for eyes to see. The bodies of, primarily civilian, war dead lay in the streets, hospitals, ditches, and Mosques of Iraq. Civilian or resistance fighter, U.S. Marine (Why do I have to make the distinction between one human soul and another? The distinction, it's a lie. We're not separate. This I know, intangible to show, but I know). Yet, we are visually removed here from the experience of this slaughter. The wailing is heard in Iraq. Here, nothing is seen. Nothing is heard. What is felt? Beyond the private homes of those living here whose loved ones have been traded for a fucking piece of red white and blue cloth.

The war has been abstracted to such a degree it's as though the human psyche isn't able to draw on the senses needed to respond naturally in first recognizing and then responding to this war as a crime against humanity.

The war has been abstracted to such a degree it's as though the human psyche isn't able to draw on the senses needed to respond naturally in first recognizing and then responding to this war as a crime against humanity. I feel it's essential to undermine this by drawing on those creative senses that allow and encourage feeling; whatever form, whatever expression one is compelled towards, if rooted there in our resistance, I believe it to be affective in encouraging a growing movement for change.

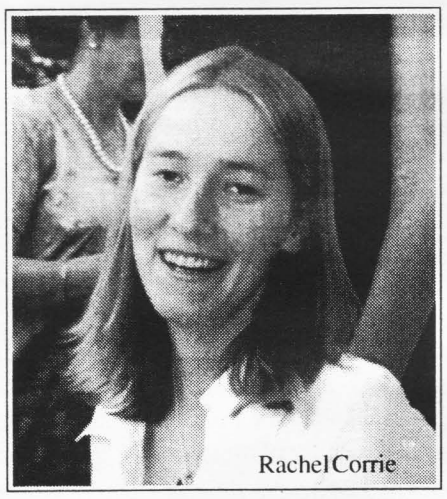
Recently some of us have been holding vigil within a design that allows the bloody images of war to be seen - and the grief experienced from such crimes against humanity to be shared. Responses I've experienced from the public during these vigils have varied. During one vigil I held at the 'round-about' nearest our bridge, a man threatened to return with a gun and shoot if I didn't remove myself (shrouded, and already bloody enough, I sang a wordless song quietly and hoped he'd feel better by the time he got home.) During the next vigil, held in that same place, a (somewhat bewildered) homeless man sat with me awhile, with growing concern for me he removed his only coat, wrapping it around me to comfort me. There have been many more good and giving responses than not.

Patty Imani at the round-about

There are a group of women who are working together to develop and hold group vigils in this vein. If you are interested in this type of expression, please contact me by e-mail at pattyimani@hotmail.com . Also, I encourage you all to participate in the OMJP planning of a 1000 person die-in, to be held on Oly's Capitol grounds (tentatively proposed for that Saturday nearest the inauguration of Bush's second reign).

"By love our liberation:
By fear our captors be.
Resist!" ~ *Patty*

Rafah: continued from page one


Rachel Corrie

common in the Occupied Territories. Some of the children, unfortunately, do not survive their injuries. Fourteen-year-old Ahmad Abu Elwan was shot dead by Israeli gunfire while playing in front of his home. His mother, too weak with grief to stand, had to be taken in a wheelchair to bid goodbye to her son. The pictures are extremely heart-wrenching and often graphic, but they are testament to the reality of life in our sister city.

These home demolitions, maimings, deaths and military incursions are rarely reported in the mainstream media. Most Olympia residents are not even aware of the level of impoverishment of the Palestinians. Websites such as http://ifamericansonlyknew.com, and www.pchrgaza.org publish photos, reports and statistics of the situation in Gaza and of the Palestinians in general, and provide an opportunity for people to get information that is otherwise missing from the daily news.

Other US cities are following Olympia's lead and attempting to establish sister city relationships with Palestinian cities. Madison, Wisconsin has the Madison-Rafah Sister City Project (MRSCP), which earlier this year had a huge effort to become an "official" sister city with Rafah. Though they got a majority of the votes, Madison's rules require more than that for approval, and it did not pass. Craig and Cindy Corrie, parents of Rachel Corrie, recently traveled to Madison to meet with the members of MRSCP. MRSCP is hoping to work with ORSCP through joint delegations, providing support for each other's projects, and possibly bringing officials and others from Rafah to the U.S. In addition a group in Atlanta, Georgia, has recently begun an effort to have a sister city relationship with Ramallah. The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice, which the Corries founded in their daughter's memory, hopes to support these efforts at cross-border, cross-cultural connections, and envisions an eventual network of US-Palestinian Sister City relationships.

As we learn more about our sister city, it is impossible not to be shocked by the general situation there.

The members of ORSCP work to build community internationally as well as locally. We feel we have to create the world in which we want to live, and this organization helps us do that. From Rachel's vision our efforts were born, and we are proud that less than two years later we continue to grow in membership and have sponsored or co-sponsored many events that have brought members of our two communities together. For example, one of our members who traveled to Rafah held children's art and bookmaking classes there. These books were then brought to Olympia and shared with local children here. And last year's Winter Celebration was a huge success, raising nearly $10K for our projects while giving people an opportunity to learn more about the our sister city and the Palestinian people.

This year's Winter Celebration, which will be held on December 11 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight at The Olympia Ballroom, is again a fundraiser to support our continued work. The event promises to be an evening of fabulous entertainment including Middle Eastern music from the Portland band The Brothers of the Baladi, classical Indian music by Stephanie Dondrey, John Abrahms and Celia Chantal, tasty ethnic cuisine, a silent auction, a bazaar featuring items such as Palestinian Olive Oil, Middle Eastern spices, and Palestinian crafts, and an update on the status of our various projects. Learn more about the Winter Celebration, and ORSCP in general by visiting www.orscp.org or email info@orscp.org.

Second Annual ORSCP Winter Celebration

A popular Middle Eastern music group from Portland will highlight the second annual "Winter Celebration" to support programs of the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project, from 7:00 to midnight Saturday, December 11, at the Olympia Ballroom.

In addition to Brothers of the Baladi, an Olympia classical Indian music group of Stephanie Dondrey, John Abrahms and Celia Chantal will entertain as attendees sample ethnic food, a bazaar of imported crafts and foods, plus a silent auction.

Some of the items available were created by members of the General Union of Palestinian Women, who use the proceeds to support their families. The Olympia group also has contributed to a hospital plus the Society for the Physically Handicapped in Rafah.

Other activities supported by the annual fund-raiser include visitations to Rafah by Olympians who assist families and projects, as well as the presentation of education programs throughout the community, most recently in cooperation with St. John's Episcopal Church.

Admission to the celebration is by donation, with a $20 suggested amount, which includes food. The bar is no-host. Nursery care will be provided.

For more information about the celebration, or about the sister city project, call (360) 459-4024 or e-mail info@orscp.org.

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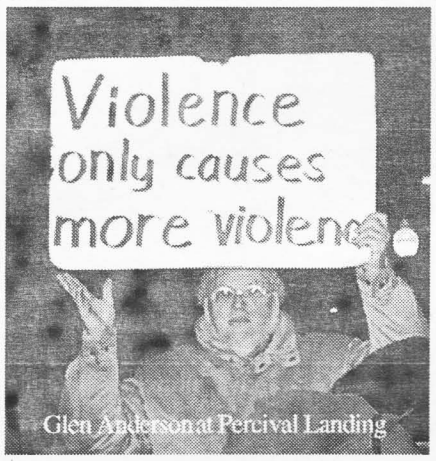
The Election: Emotion, Analysis, Strategy and Next Steps

by Glen Anderson



Glen Anderson at Percival Landing

People are still processing their feelings about the November election and wondering what to do next. The insights below are worth considering.

Election fraud?

While many people thought defeating Bush was possible, I did not believe that a regime that had been demonstrating utter contempt for the truth, the Constitution, and international law for four years would allow a fair election to occur and accede to the wishes of the public. It is quite likely that the Republicans have stolen another election by suppressing Democratic votes, rigging the computerized voting machines, and other skullduggery. Abundant evidence was mounting throughout the campaign and continues to amass now.

Everyone who cares about democracy and constitutional government needs to make the 2004 election scandal a hot issue and keep it on the front burner. Suspicions and conjecture can point to areas for serious investigation, but ultimately, only hard evidence – the proverbial "smoking gun" – will convince the public and our political system to right the wrong. Remember that the Watergate burglary occurred in June 1972, but Nixon was not forced out of office until August 1974.

Real issues go beyond two parties:

Remember what people were saying during the campaign: Kerry wanted to keep Bush's war going, Kerry bought completely into Bush's notion of a "war on terrorism," and Kerry supported "free trade" through NAFTA and the WTO. This is not to say that Kerry would be as bad a president as Bush, but we must remember that the basic aspects of US foreign and economic policies have been bi-partisan for half a century. Democrat Clinton bombed Iraq repeatedly, enforced deadly economic sanctions against Iraq, kept the fraudulent Star Wars missile defense system going, trashed the welfare system, expanded the federal death penalty, supported the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act, promoted the WTO and NAFTA, and did many other horrible things.

The reality is that regardless of which party runs the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, we must organize vigorously to profoundly change our foreign policy, social policies, and economic system. We need to work on the substantive issues and not be distracted by mere partisanship.

Organize to change the political climate:

Defeating Bush on November 2 would not have been enough. We can't just replace one politician with another. We must change the political climate and culture in more profound ways. This requires not just an electoral campaign, but a vigorous social/political change movement.

Political parties and candidates avoid addressing the *real* issues. To make progress on the issues, we must raise the issues proactively and organize on them explicitly. When the people lead, the "leaders" will have to follow. If the public *demands* a peaceful foreign policy and accepts nothing less, politicians will adopt those policies. Our vision of political change is more profound than partisan.

Gandhi and King did not run for office. They promoted nonviolent revolutions from the grassroots up. The most important positive changes in the US (women's right to vote, the labor movement, the Civil Rights movement, environmentalism, etc.) have arisen through *grassroots organizing* – not through selecting marginal candidates.

We must change the political climate and culture in more profound ways. This requires not just an electoral campaign, but a vigorous social/political change movement.

Resist injustice and oppression:

In the 1800s the former slave Frederick Douglass issued this famous statement: "Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them." He also said, "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

Bush's second term is likely to be even more outrageous than his first. But we are not the first society to live under a repressive regime. In recent decades people in many countries have used the power of nonviolence to resist oppression and overthrow dictators. In Latin America, Chile enjoyed democracy since 1830, until a CIA-supported military coup overthrew the democratically elected president, Salvador Allende, in 1973. The military dictator, General Pinochet, ruled brutally until popular opinion forced him out when he tried to steal the 1988 election.

A few years after Chile regained its democracy, a member of the Chilean Fellowship of Reconciliation told a US FOR audience that Chile's nonviolent pro-democracy activists found it necessary to devote some of their energy to protecting their fellow activists' mental health and avoiding psychological depression so they could continue the resistance movement.

I highly recommend a book and video series titled *A Force More Powerful.* The book details 13 cases of nonviolent resistance in different parts of the world in recent decades. It is powerful and insightful. Six of these cases are summarized in 30-minute documentaries. The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation owns the book and video series and encourages people to borrow them and show and discuss them in living rooms and in public locations. Contact (360) 491-9093 info@olyfor.org

A nonviolent revolution is a long-term process:

This election is disheartening, but Gandhi believed there is no such thing as defeat for the person seeking the truth and practicing nonviolence. We need to persist in speaking the truth and working for justice.

Nonviolence and grassroots organizing really do work! I'm convinced that nonviolence works because it is consistent with how the universe was designed to work. The law of karma is true. You reap what you sow. And, as Martin Luther King said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Ultimately, violence is doomed to failure. We need to be faithful and keep working over the long haul.

Martin Luther King said: "... [I]n our struggle we have cosmic companionship. ... We feel that the universe is on the side of right. There is something in this universe which justifies Carlyle in saying: 'No lie can live forever.' There is something in this universe which justifies William Cullen Bryant in saying: 'Truth crushed to earth will rise again.'"

It will take a long time to change our public culture, political and economic systems. We must start now and work hard over the long haul. In Latin America the Spanish term for nonviolent resistance translates into "relentless persistence."

Nonviolence works because its means are consistent with our ends. We build the new nonviolent world through every nonviolent action we take. Everything we do with nonviolence and compassion will sow the seeds of a nonviolent and compassionate world.

We can indeed build a powerful nonviolent movement for political and social change. A commitment to nonviolence and a process of strategic planning are important. In the 1970s Gene Sharp documented 198 methods of nonviolent resistance, and he used historical evidence to develop some overall principles and strategies for effective nonviolent action. For more information contact the Olympia FOR at (360) 491-9093 info@olyfor.org .

Religious and spiritual faith:

Our various faith traditions contribute many dimensions to help us move past the greedy, nationalistic and violent political/economic mess that bogs us down:

· Judaism reminds us of the one God who loves and nurtures and all of us.

· Christianity emphasizes nonviolence, social justice and inclusiveness.

· Islam recognizes God's compassion and persistent concern for all of us.

· Buddhism transcends petty materialism and reminds us not to take ourselves so seriously.

· Hinduism appreciates understanding our role in the universe and the diversity of faith.

·The Baha'i faith affirms an enthusiastic appreciation of humanity's unity and potential.

· Earth-based spirituality grounds ourselves in reality, wisdom and appreciation of the natural world.

·The Quaker faith recognize the inherent presence of the divine in every person.

· Various ethical, agnostic and atheistic approaches encourage human beings to rise to our full potential and create a world where all can be fulfilled.

· Other faith traditions contribute a variety of additional positive insights and approaches.

All together, the rich diversity affirms the human spirit and contributes abundant wisdom and heart for humankind's growth.

Compassion:

I can deflate my anger about our nation's political climate when I stop demonizing political "leaders" and start recognizing that they have only the illusion of being in control.

The Bush regime's key players are doing horrible things, and they seem utterly incapable of empathy for people victimized by their violence, abuse, injustice greed, and pollution. Only someone who is pathologically incapable of empathy or sensitivity could do such things. I realize that the Bush regime's key players are spiritually stunted and psychologically deformed. Whenever someone is so profoundly disabled, I must feel compassion rather than anger. Of course, this does not mean that they should be allowed to wield power – the nonviolent revolution should proceed quickly to spare the world from any further abuse – but we should proceed with compassion rather than vindictiveness for these offenders.

Remember Spiro Agnew? Nixon's vice president spouted the kinds of bitter rhetoric that we now see embodied in the Bush regime's brutality. Agnew really got under the skins of peace folks and young folks. He drove us crazy! Sometime during the winter of 1971-72 I came to realize that Agnew was spiritually and psychologically stunted, as described in the paragraph above, and I consciously forgave Agnew. From that moment on, he had no power over me! Interestingly, Agnew was also a crook, and after a federal indictment for his corrupt acts while governor of Maryland, he resigned the vice presidency in shame. Ten months later Nixon also resigned in shame because of his crookedness related to the Watergate scandal.

Compassion, yes – but also accountability!

Our work is just beginning!

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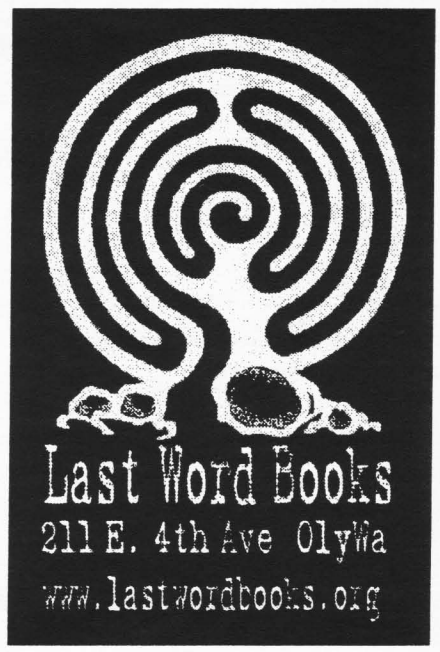

News from inside:

On prisons, insourcing, and Star Wars

by Holly Gwinn Graham

Since many of you have found an inner connection with the Plowshares nuns, Jackie Hudson, Carol Gilbert, and Ardeth Platte, I want to continue bringing you news of them in a way that Works in Progress can support. Instead of publishing their edited monthly letters, I will instead post salient excerpts.

It is clear to me that aside from Mumia Abu Jamal, we get little information from within prison walls unless we know one of the 2 million incarcerated Americans, 100,000 of them women, presently doing time. So, I feel the nuns' perspectives from three of this country's federal prisons are newsworthy.

Here, then, is the latest *news from inside* excerpted from Carol's and Ardeth's recent letters.

From Carol ... "In 1934, Federal Prison Industries, Inc. (UNICOR) was established by Congress. The primary mission was and is to provide prisoners with work opportunities and training while in prison. Our UNICOR factory closed last month to get ready for a new function – a telemarketing call center. Our former factory was a garment industry for the military. For example, one of the contracts was for the flight jacket President Bush wore last Thanksgiving in Iraq.

"This new prison work is dubbed 'insourcing'. About a dozen states have call centers in state and federal prisons. These jobs would have been 'outsourced' and gone to countries like India and the Philippines. While prison officials are praising the program for lowering recidivism rates, the unions have criticized them for taking jobs from the public sector.

"Here at Alderson, about 125 women will work for slave wages for a private company that was going to move offshore. Rumor is that the contract will be with AT&T. Fact is that between 250 and 275 employees at AT&T in Charleston, WV are losing their AT&T jobs and benefits in November."

An update in her November letter adds, "The women had started to dismantle the sewing machines when they were abruptly told to reassemble the machines as the factory would be open another three months to complete an order for 10,000 military jackets. No explanation was given.

"Alderson's population increases with no new space. Last year it was 832 and now is 1,132. One cottage here has been condemned and more than 40 women must be housed elsewhere on the compound. Our area houses 124 of us in two-person cubes and has added 5 bunk beds in the entrance/officers' area and beds to the TV rooms.

"Prison population has *tripled* since 1990. The inmate population was 33-39% over capacity a year ago. The government plans to open 17 new prisons by 2008, having 100+ now. Drug sentences account for more than half of all prisoners and crimes of money for most of the others. Staff at Alderson has gone from 60 guards to 35 guards in the past four years. We are not supervised much of the time. Statistics could fill volumes but of what use are they? As Jeanette Stokes writes, 'Statistics are faces with the tears wiped off!'

"Most of you have probably seen more about Alderson this past month because of the arrival of Martha Stewart. Each of the 1,100+ women that I live with has her unique story worthy of a book. However, Martha's presence has, as expected, generated interest in this overcrowded, rotten system.

"Everyone here has been stripped naked of more than just our physical clothes, but of titles and professions. We come in all shapes, sizes, ages, classes, and races. Getting to know a woman here is like peeling an onion – layer by layer. Some are here for a few days or weeks and others face 15 years or more.

Jeanette Stokes speaks of my life with these women: "*I am a porous being. There are spaces in my soul like the open spaces in a web. Other people pass through me. I am changed and sometimes I am born to a whole new way of being.*"

Blessings and love,
Carol Gilbert, OP # 10856-039
R1 Federal Prison Camp PO Box A
Alderson, WV 24901

In her October letter, Ardeth outlined the military's *Vision for 2020* and the international movement to keep space for peace and weapons-free. She wrote:

"Sept. 27 - Oct. 2 was set aside as the international week for opposing the weaponization, nuclearization, and militarization of outer space. I could not participate from inside these walls, so I will write about this issue now.

"Jackie, Carol and I received the 1997 document *Vision for 2020* hot off the U.S. Space Command press and *The Long Range Plan* shortly thereafter. It was terribly disturbing to learn that the Pentagon was seriously pursuing empire building in outer space. Planners looked at the conquest of this 4th frontier as essential for U.S. domination, control, ownership, and exploitation of space.

"The government's intention in space is illegal, defiant of existing treaties and immoral, making the United States 'god of the heavens'. Theatre Missile Defense occasions a whole new arms race, challenging other nations to costly defensive and offensive competition for outer space.

"Our Plowshares actions in Colorado reflect our rejection of the ongoing research, development, construction, testing and deployment of the "kill chain" capacity to wage war from, into, and through space in our names. We do not accept the strict cloak of secrecy and deception in the governmental black budget, a false portrayal of the complex system as a defensive program for peaceful purposes and the good of humanity. It is not.

"Name changes for space endeavors occur with presidential changes – from Strategic Missile Defense, "Star Wars", Ballistic Missile Defense, National Missile Defense to Missile Defense Agency (MDA) today. Here are some facts about the US military's plan to rule the earth from space by 2020:

1. The headquarters of the US Space Command has been combined with the US Strategic Command located at Offutt AFB in Omaha, NE. The latter has custody over the US silo-based nuclear arsenal (including the 49 missiles in Colorado).

2. Colorado Bases:

a) Peterson AFB, AF Space Command, controls Malmstrom AFB, MT; FE Warren AFB, WY; Minott AFB, ND; and Colorado's major silo fields.

b) Schriever AFB with its radomes and satellite dishes conducts war games, simulates acts of war and controls military satellites.

c) Cheyenne Mountain contains the war room for planning wars, has extensive computer capacity

d) Buckley AFB – houses radomes connected with surveillance and spying network and space warfare.

3. Other Bases: Vandenberg, CA; Cape Canaveral, FL; Ft. Meade, MD; Beal AFB, CA; Ft. Belvoir, VA; Kirtland AFB, NM. Ft. Greeley, AK has the first of 16 planned ballistic missile interceptors.

4. WorldWide Bases: Pine Gap, Australia; Menwith Hill, Great Britain; Kodena-Sobe, Okinawa; NORAD installation in Canada.

5. Spy and war-fighting satellites are used for voice and electronic communication, eavesdropping interceptors, picture taking in, on and below Earth's surface. Lasers are being developed to zap targets at the speed of light, to be used in combat, "stability" operations and homeland defense. These weapons are offensive (first strike) also.

6. The 2005 budget adds $ 9.7 billion to $100 billion allocated for Missile "Defense", a system that has had *no success* during testing.

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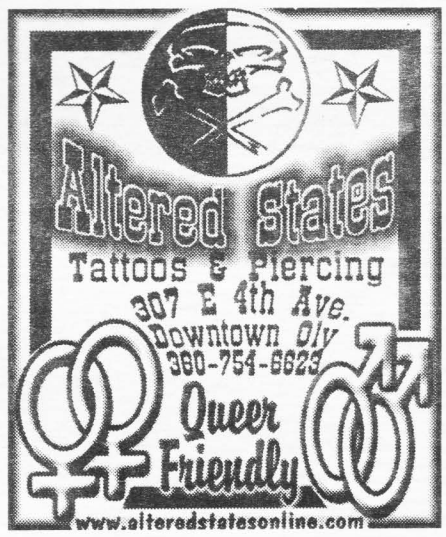
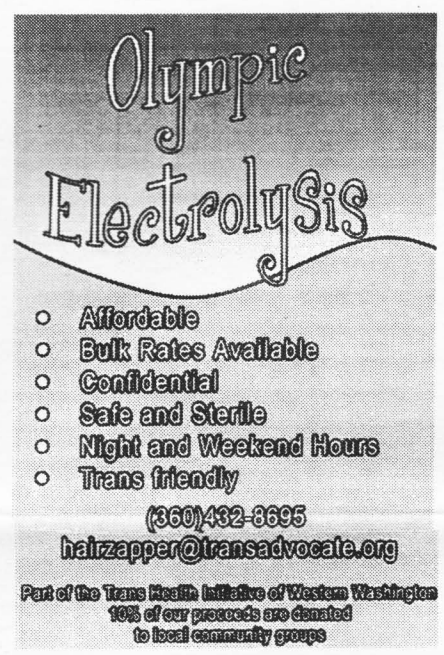
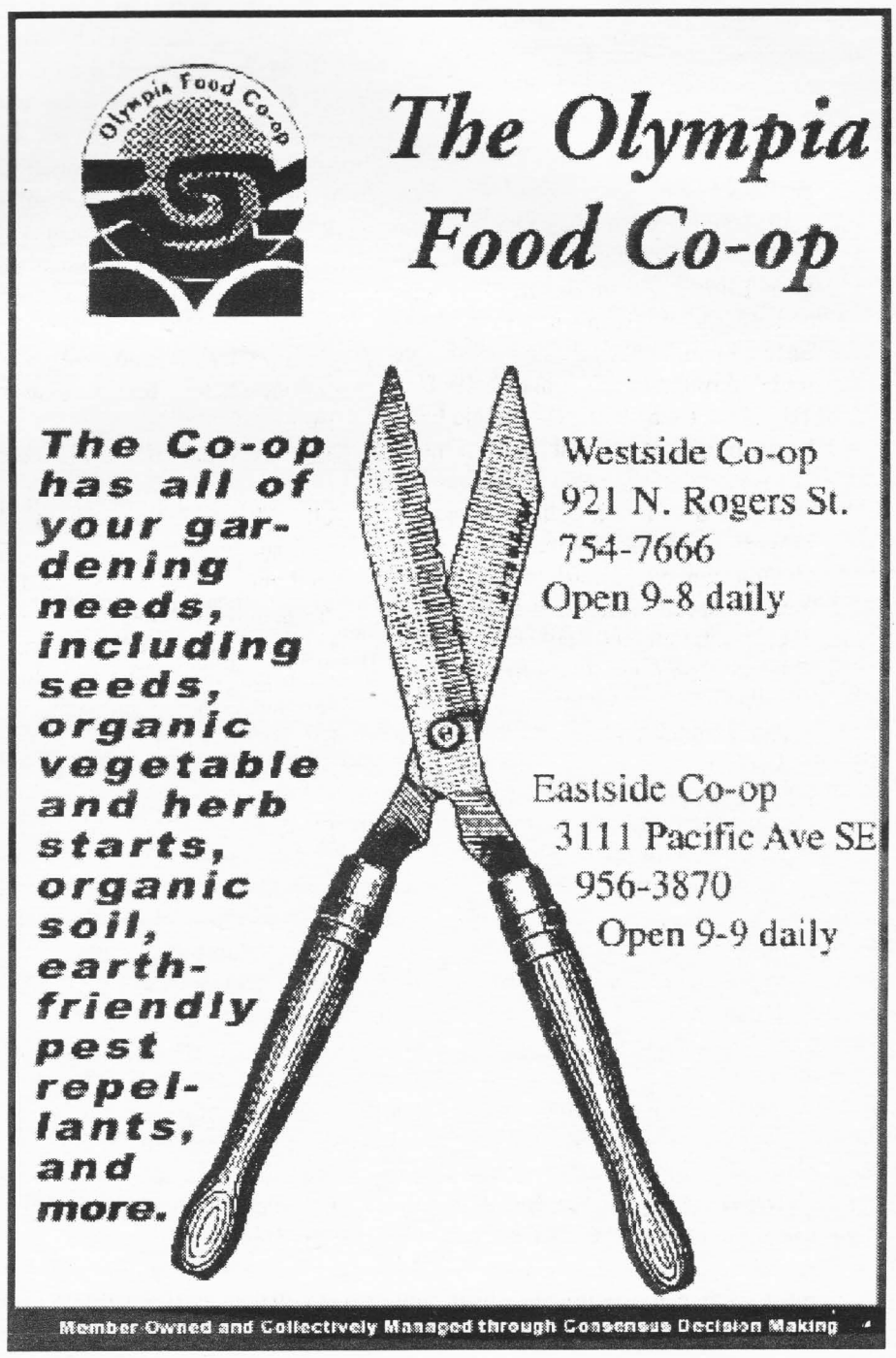
"The great only appear great because we are on our knees. Stand up."

~ Irish revolutionary, James Connolly



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Stop the Military Shipments from the Port of Olympia to Iraq

The following statements, along with numerous others, have been presented to the Olympia Port Commissioners .

Peter Bohmer

The U.S. war against Iraq is immoral and illegal. It is our responsibility as individuals and communities such as Olympia to do what we can to end the war.

We urge the Port of Olympia commissioners to take a stand against the war by not permitting the Port of Olympia to be used for cargo going to the U.S. war effort in Iraq, and not signing any future contracts with the military for shipments to Iraq. It is likely that if Olympia refused to permit these military shipments, they would go through Tacoma or Seattle. Hopefully, our actions in Olympia will spur residents of Tacoma, Seattle and their Port Commissioners to take similar actions. Growing non-cooperation with President Bush's war by more and more communities will further opposition to this war and hopefully lead to U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and peace.

What about the revenue of $210,000 a shipment or approximately $630,000 a year that would be lost by the Port of Olympia if the shipments were stopped? The war is wrong, we do not and should not want to make money off of it. Moreover, the United States government is spending about $100 billion a year on the war, which comes out to $15 million yearly for Olympia residents and almost $80 million per year for Thurston County residents, many, many times more than what is being received by the Port from the military. These war expenditures will continue into 2005 and well beyond unless we end the war. Shouldn't this money be spent instead for health care, for improving schools, for making child care affordable, for college scholarships and for job training? We know the Port of Olympia provides necessary living wage jobs for the workers loading the ships; we support this and urge the Port to find other cargos for shipping.

100,000 Iraqis and almost 1200 U.S. soldiers have been killed so far in this war and the numbers are growing daily. The U.S. is causing needless death and suffering of the Iraqi people and putting U.S. troops at risk. The way to protect the troops is not by sending them the best weapons but to end the war and bring them home. This will also create the possibility of peace in Iraq. The resistance by the Iraqi people to the U.S. occupation grows daily; therefore the U.S. leaving will remove one of the main causes of the fighting and killing.

We urge the Port Commissioners to show courage and take a bold stand for peace. After all, "You can't be neutral on a moving train". Permitting the port to continue to be used for sending lethal weapons such as attack helicopters to Iraq is being complicit with the war. No more military shipments to Iraq from Olympia would send a message to the people of Olympia, to the people of the United States and to the world that people and cities are willing to stand up for peace and justice, and to oppose their own government when necessary.

Peter Bohmer is a member of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) and a faculty member in economics and political economy, the Evergreen State College.

Michael Tempke

War Crimes

The President of the United States is obliged by Article VI of the Constitution to recognize the United Nations Charter and Geneva Conventions. The U.N. Security Council is given the responsibility of determining "the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken ... to maintain or restore international peace and security." Therefore the President does not have the power to authorize a unilateral or multilateral invasion of any sovereign nation. Every death in this war is an unjustified death caused by the administration's contempt for the rule of law.

Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions protects civilians from warfare at all times. The Pentagon has totally ignored its responsibility to "distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly ... direct their operations only against military objectives." [2]

Financial Cost

The war in Iraq has already cost the people of Olympia over $26M dollars. This figure was calculated by Center for American Progress.[3] The Port of Olympia received $630K for the first three military shipments out of our port. Compared to what we are losing financially in this war, it is insulting to call this blood money a boost to our local economy.

We want to keep our community values by not allowing OUR PORT to be used as an extension of this illegal war, or any death-based economy.

Security of Soldiers

Our soldiers are not going to be more secure by receiving more shipments of munitions. These shipments will only keep them in the conflict for a longer time. They will be more likely to be killed in combat if the combat lasts a longer period of time. The security of the soldiers is most accurately determined by the amount of time they spend in combat zones.

If we bring them home now, they will be safe now.

Security of Iraq

The occupation of Iraq by the United States military is exacerbating the situation. As the Pentagon continues to attack the people that are defending their homes and lives from hegemony, Iraq is becoming less and less stable. We had no right to attack Iraq, and we have no right to keep our forces there. As long as we stay in Iraq killing innocent civilians, Iraq will be unsafe – a breeding ground for hostile emotion.

Depleted Uranium and Full Disclosure

The U.S. military uses depleted uranium in some of its munitions. We demand full disclosure of all shipments passing through our port.

1. U.N. Charter, Article 39
2. Article 48, Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions
3. www.americanprogress.org/site/

Larry Mosqueda

There is no doubt that you will hear many comments, both pro and con on this issue. Some of the comments will be factually based and others will have a strong emotional component. I would like to comment on two areas that may arise at the meeting for your consideration. A) You will no doubt be told that opposition to the current Iraqi war and the use of the Port for that purpose is anti-troop and anti-veteran. Nothing could be further from the truth. B) The US war in Iraq is illegal, under international and national law and material efforts that support that war are aiding and abetting a crime.

A) Details on the position that opposition to the war is anti-troop or anti-veteran.

Much of this information is a repeat of information I presented to the Olympia City Council on 5/24/04 when the issue of the proposed visit of the USS Olympia was being considered.

As with much of the rhetoric from the Bush administration and its supporters ("Either you are with us or with the terrorists"), nothing could be further from the truth. Those in uniform, their families, or veterans do not universally accept the idea that criticism of Bush's war machine at "a time of war" should not be done—in fact many consider dissent to be a patriotic duty.

A few specific examples of those who are closest to the military are illustrative. The organization "Military Families Speak Out," www.mfso.org is one such group. Their website notes, "Military Families Speak Out is an organization of people who are opposed to war in Iraq and who have relatives or loved ones in the military. We were formed in November of 2002 and have contacts with military families throughout the United States, and in other countries around the world.

"As people with family members and loved ones in the military, we have both a special need and a unique role to play in speaking out against war in Iraq. It is our loved ones who are, or have been, or will be on the battlefront. It is our loved ones who are risking injury and death. It is our loved ones who are returning scarred from their experiences. It is our loved ones who will have to live with the injuries and death among innocent Iraqi civilians.

"If you have family members or loved ones in the military and you are opposed to this war, join us." Surely this group supports the troops (their families) and questions the war seriously.

The group "Veterans for Peace," http://www.veteransforpeace.org is another organization that is opposed to subjecting another generation of young American to the same lies and indignities that they were subjected to. As they note, "The organization includes men and women veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, other conflicts and peacetime veterans. Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Thus, other means of problem solving are necessary." I am an associate member of this group and while I have not polled all of them, I know that they are both against the militarization of society and not anti-veteran.

"Bring Them Home Now," http://www.bringthemhomenow.org/ has active duty members, among others. As they point out, it "is a campaign of military families, veterans, active duty personnel, reservists and others opposed to the ongoing war in Iraq and galvanized to action by George W. Bush's inane and reckless challenge to armed Iraqis resisting occupation to "Bring 'em on."

We need to be vigilant that we are not being used for political purposes to support a failing, unpopular, and unnecessary war.

"Our mission is to mobilize military families, veterans, and GIs themselves to demand: an end to the occupation of Iraq and other misguided military adventures; and an immediate return of all US troops to their home duty stations.

"The truth is coming out. The American public was deceived by the Bush administration about the motivation for and intent of the invasion of Iraq. It is equally apparent that the administration is stubbornly and incompetently adhering to a destructive course. Many Americans do not want our troops there. Many military families do not want our troops there. Many troops themselves do not want to be there. The overwhelming majority of Iraqis do not want US troops there." They refused to be silenced by those who say that we cannot critique the actions of a reckless administration because "we are at war."

[Mosqueda cites a long list of additional organizations sponsoring Bring Them Home Now.]

There are many other groups and think tanks that include veterans and others that, again while I have not polled their membership, would question the need for shipments to a war that is risky, unwise, illegal, immoral, and unnecessary. These groups, like the veteran groups listed above, could not rationally be considered anti-troop, anti-veteran or other forms of slander that some critics will hurled at you if you perform your elected duty to safeguard the citizens of Olympia and Thurston County. As I, and others, have consistently stated, the best way to support the troops is to bring them home immediately and not to send equipment that will only prolong their stay and kill more of them. We need to be vigilant that we are not being used for political purposes to support a failing, unpopular, and unnecessary war. We could examine who is really hurting the troops and veterans with Bush's cutbacks for veterans' hospitals, etc., but that is another (but related) discussion for another day.

B) On the issue of the legality of the war.

I am including a summary of an article that I wrote in February of 2003, before Bush's initiation of the war began. This was given to a few soldiers at the Port, the last time the military used the Port for transport to Iraq. The full 17-page article was published on Counterpunch at http://www.counterpunch.org/mosqueda02272003.html. It is also at http://www.omjp.org//ArtLarryDisobey.html and elsewhere. I would request that you and your staff read the full article on-line, as you attempt to determine your moral, legal, and fiduciary duty to those who have placed you in positions of public trust.

Think pink

Code Pink comes to Olympia

by Djuna Davidson

Code Pink (Women for Peace) is a progressive collective that originated in San Francisco in 2002 through women dissatisfied with the current time of American politics. Medea Benjamin, Starhawk, Jodie Evans, and Diane Wilson created a vision of clever, vibrant, and whimsical actions to highlight and protest humanitarian infractions by world leaders. The name originates from the hospital term for abducted babies, and is a pun upon President Bush's terror alert color code system. In the words of The Nation magazine, "Code Pink is not an organization but a phenomenon: a sensibility reflecting feminist analysis and a campy playfulness"(03/2003). The first protest organized by these women was a four-month vigil at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in response to the preemptive strike by the Bush administration that created the current war in Iraq. A signature of every action is the overwhelming presence of that feminized color pink – buttons, hats, banners and all.

On November 5, 2004, Olympia joined Code Pink. In an event co-organized by individuals spearheading the local group of fuchsia fighters and many established peace groups such as OMJP (the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace) and the Rachel Corrie Chapter of Veterans for Peace, the pink presence of Olympia began. During the morning rush hour on that Friday playful groups of people carrying the message to wage peace stood at key intersections throughout town holding signs, singing songs, and waving a great big good morning to every passing car. This event was an invitation for collaboration between every person in Olympia who wants to work for peace and justice while keeping a sense of humor.

The first meeting of Code Pink Olympia was on Monday November 15, 2004 at Traditions Fair Trade. There were about 75 people present, ranging across the spectrum in gender, age, profession, and personality. It was a lively group ready to take on the challenge of a serious political movement that knows how to have fun. All people interested in helping to manifest this fantastic presence as a part of Olympia's progressive movement are invited to join the next meeting on Monday November 29th. The meeting location will be announced in the newspaper, through local group listserves, and posted around town on flyers. However, those interested can also call 867-0341 for more information. Tentative plans have begun for actions ranging from alternative caroling to theatrical vigils to a delegation at the inauguration on January 20th in D.C. and the group is very receptive to other suggested actions. In the name of peace, this group challenges Olympia to think pink!

(Announcements: cont. from page 2)
reaching out to the members of this community for help.

Needs List:

Most wanted TENTS! Bicycles, Racks, Locks, Socks, Blankets/Sleeping Bags! Tarps, Tents, Hooded sweatshirts/ Sweatshirts, Candles, Batteries, Portable Stoves- (camping stoves), Rain Gear/ Ponchos, Gloves work, Stocking Caps, Duffel Bags/Back Packs and Camping Supplies of any kind.

Those little things: Shoelaces/ Bootlaces, Duct tape, Tampons/ pads, Can openers, Black Trash Bags, laptop computers, (just checking if your paying attention) Bungee Chords, Twine/Chord, Sewing Kits, Vitamins.

Medical Supplies (for first aid kits): Band-Aids (different sizes), Scissors, Advil/Aspirin, Tylenol in small packets, Antiseptic cleanups (single package) for wounds, 2-inch gauze bandage rolls, 2 inch Ace bandages, 2" by 2" gauze bandages, Moist toweletes for hands, Cough Drops/Cough Syrup, Toe nail clippers/ Tweezers

Did I mention tents?

Large, X-large, XXX-Large men's coats! Wool pants, Long-johns/ Thermal Clothes all sizes, Stocking caps, Gloves.

EGYHOP Bike Project provides free bikes to low/no income people. In addition to donation of **usable and rebuildable bikes and bike parts**, we need bike racks, panniers, bike repair tools and all other usable accessories.

Thank you

Emma Goldman Youth & Homeless Outreach Project

Long Hair David

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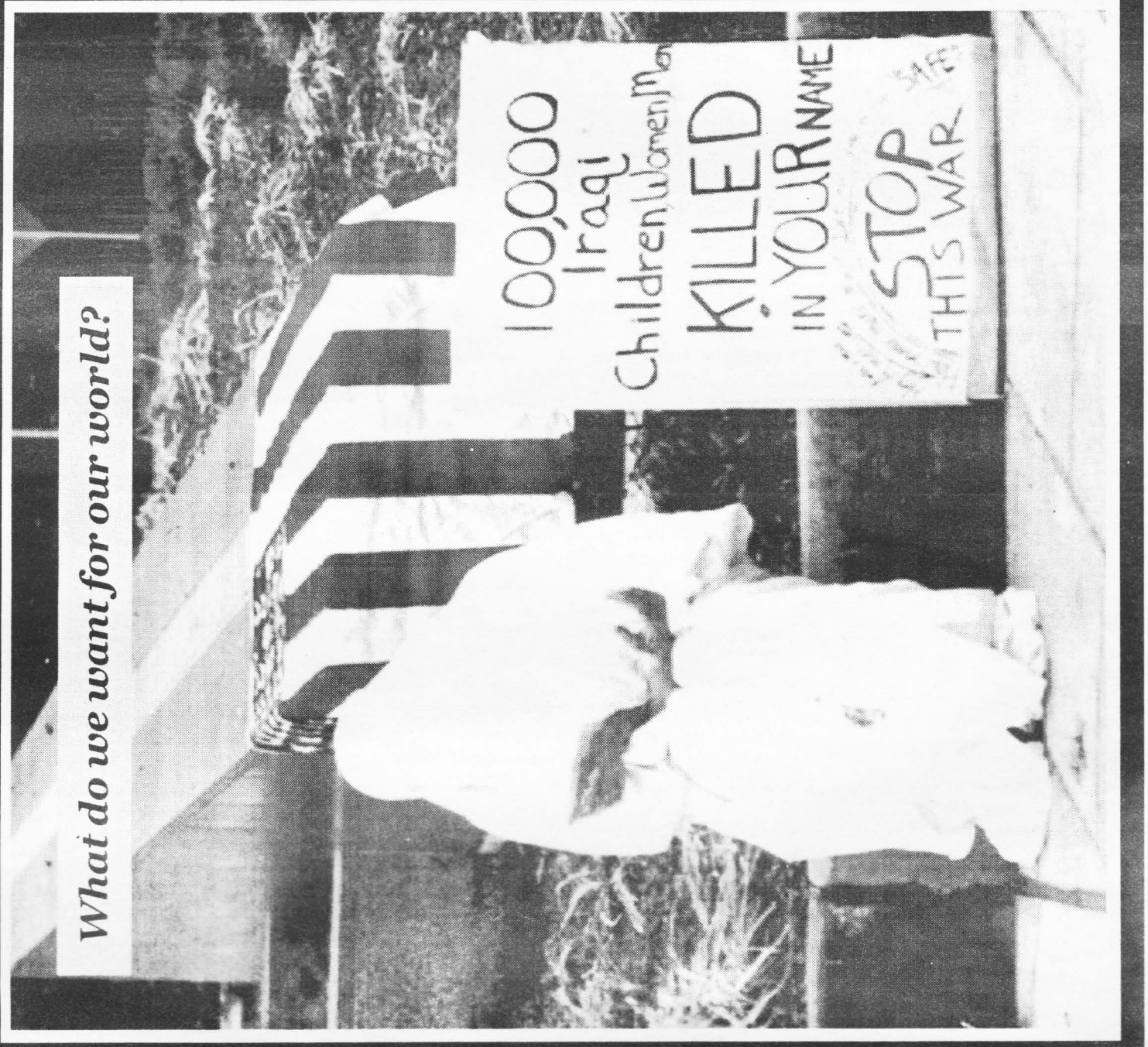

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